

Chapter Twelve

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Other Databases of the European Commission

The various Directorates of the European Commission produce databases of their own materials, principally for internal use. Increasingly, these are being released via the Internet for the benefit of those who wish to know what the Commission has done on any particular issue. These databases constitute an invaluable source of information about the activities of the European Union.

Europa – Gateway to the European Union

This is the main EU website and provides up-to-date information of a general nature. Europa also includes links to other, more specific databases.

→ **<http://europa.eu.int>**

The following is a list of the most useful of these databases:

ECLAS – European Commission Library Automated System

ECLAS is a bibliographic database containing over 350,000 records which refer to the acquisitions of the Commission's library since 1978. Each record is in the language of the original document (EU languages only). This multilingual database is updated weekly and covers the EU's official publications and documentation, as well as the publications and documents of many inter-governmental organisations, commercial, academic and government printers, and selected journal articles of lasting interest.

→ **<http://europa.eu.int/eclas>**

EPOQUE – European Parliament Online Query

EPOQUE is a hybrid database that covers the work of the European Parliament and its associated documentation. It is a mixture of bibliographic and full-text records, which cover:

- Resolutions (in full text since May 1993)
- Parliamentary questions (in full text since July 1994)
- Official documents (reports, motions for resolutions, proposals from the Commission, common positions of the Council, documents sent by other Institutions)
- Debates (titles, dates, speakers)
- Legislative procedures (main steps with reference data and summaries)
- Petitions to the Parliament

- Documents relating to the activities of the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Research (DG IV)

→ **EPOQUE may be accessed online via PDSN or Telnet. For further information contact: European Parliament, Directorate for Informatics and Telecommunications (DG I), Service CDSI, L-2929 Luxembourg (email hdepoque@europarl.eu.int).**

EUR-Lex - Europeae Unionis Lex

EUR-Lex is a free service set up by the Office for Official Publications (EUR-OP) in order to make EU law available to members of the public. It contains the following documents, accessible by a common register, in all of the official languages:

- The Official Journal L and C
- The Treaties
- Consolidated versions of legislation in force
- Preparatory texts for legislation
- Judgments of the European Court of Justice
- Parliamentary Questions

→ **<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>**

RAPID - press releases of the European Union

This is a full-text database, updated daily and searchable via a menu system or by using a retrieval language. RAPID contains:

- Press releases (brief documents giving details of events, decisions and/or reactions to them)
- Memos (background information)
- Speeches by EU Commissioners
- Council of Ministers press releases
- Proceedings of the European Court of Justice (summaries of judgments and opinions of the Court delivered during the preceding week)
- Declarations of the European Union (covering common foreign and security policy)
- Economic and Social Committee press releases
- Committee of the Regions press releases
- Court of Auditors information notes

→ **<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/spp/rapid.html>**

→ **<http://www.justis.com/titles/rapid.html>**

SCADPlus

This is a bibliographic database containing a wide range of miscellaneous information. Even though it is something of a ragbag, it is a useful source of information for professionals and academics. SCADPlus includes:

- Community legislation and related preparatory works
- Publications of the European institutions

- Articles from periodicals from all over the world concerning Community issues
- Statements and opinions from industry and the Trades Unions
- A calendar of events
- European Union policies
- A guide to the free movement of people
- Programmes and networks concerned with social affairs and education
- A guide to the Amsterdam Treaty

→ <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus>

TED - Tenders Electronic Daily

TED is the online version of the **Supplement S** to the Official Journal of the European Union (**OJ 'S'**). It contains invitations to tender for public works and supply contracts, not only from Member States of the EU, but also from African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, as well as from GATT, EFTA, Japan and the United States. Note that there are plans to cease publication of OJ 'S', at which time TED will become the only official source of this information. TED is available in all EU languages and is searchable using a menu-based system.

→ <http://ted.publications.eu.int>

TED is also available online from Context through its **Tenders** service. Context is officially licensed by EUR-OP to publish public sector tenders notices from the OJ 'S'.

→ <http://www.tenders.co.uk>

IDEA - Inter-institutional Directory of European Administration

IDEA contains the names and functions of the senior officials of the European Commission, the Parliament, the Council, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank. Also included is information on the organisation of the various units within the Institutions and on the agencies set up by the EU.

→ <http://europa.eu.int/idea>

Europarl - European Parliament multilingual Web server

Europarl contains a wide range of general information about the current work of the European Parliament, including:

- A full calendar of all its meetings
- Preparatory legislation
- Press releases and news
- Information on Members and their activities
- Political groups
- Studies and documentation

→ <http://www.europarl.eu.int>